

Tucson Citizen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

by Tucson Citizen on Oct 13, 2001, under Editorial

Readers

Columnists back al-Qaida views

I was recently surfing the Citizen's website and noticed an article that the White House is asking for "restraint" in airing pro-Osama bin Laden views.

It is nice to know that the Citizen is still publishing opinions in line with the al-Qaida view. I am, of course, referring to columns by Cal Thomas and Linda Chavez.

From the statement released by al-Qaida: "This is the crusade that (President) Bush has promised us, coming toward Afghanistan against the Islamic nation and the Afghan people. We are living under this bombardment from the crusade, which is also targeting the whole Islamic community."

Both Thomas and Chavez echo the sentiment with the "Quran is full of hate," setting the U.S. not against the terrorists, but against all of Islam. While neither Chavez nor Thomas received the attention of the American Taliban, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson both have certainly supported the propaganda of al-Qaida in their columns.

I congratulate you on your courage in presenting views that reflect those of our enemies.

DAN BALDWIN

Let border crossers fix own nation

I have read several times in the Citizen letters written by people who say that we should open our borders to anyone who wants to come in. The thing that bothers me most is that I have not seen many, if any, answers to those letters.

We have laws in this country that say that a person crossing the border without the proper documents is breaking the law.

They are placing an unfair burden on the finances of the local towns and cities with their medical and social needs. Many rob and steal from our citizens and run back across the border to escape prosecution.

It would be much better to encourage these people to stay in their own country and fight for the things that they want. Putting water stations in the desert encourages them to try to cross our desert and face death. Telling the border guards that they cannot patrol these stations is obscene. What are the guards out there for?

HYPATIA WALSH

Bishops cover up molestations

Regarding the Nov. 6th article, "Altar boys sexually abused": It is truly sad to read articles about professionals, in this case Catholic priests, who have abused children whom they are called to minister to.

What is equally sad and pathetic is the cover-up of these criminal and immoral acts by bishops. This seems to be the direction that some bishops take. They not only cover up these sad and pathetic acts, but also reassign these priests to other parishes so that they can continue their criminal and immoral behavior.

Just 4 months ago Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston, having been informed of a priest molesting 7 boys, sent the priest to work in other parishes. That priest now defrocked, will stand trial next month on charges of molesting at least 70 children in six parishes, according to the Associated Press.

When will the justice system begin sending bishops to prison, as they do the priests who commit such acts? These men (bishops) are not above the law, and they need to be held accountable for their lack of wisdom and genuine concern for the people of God.

As the Citizen article stated, other active priests will testify that the past and present bishops knew of these molestations but decided that a cover-up was more of an appropriate response. Do you really think the bishop will allow any of his priests to testify against him or the Diocese?

THE REV. EDWARD W. JUNGQUIST

Pimentel blames America first

Regarding Ricardo Pimentel's Oct. 9 column, "Food, medicine for Afghans more effective than missiles": No matter what the news of the day, we can always count on Pimentel for the ultimate in platitudes from the reality-challenged left.

His most recent excursion into absolute silliness is typical. He claims "...we can help Afghans – and ourselves – best by removing the Taliban and then helping that country form a pluralistic and democratic government."

Check it out, Ricardo. In all of the Muslim world, only Turkey has anything remotely resembling "a pluralistic and democratic government."

Under Islam, poverty, ignorance and tyranny are normal, not exceptional. Saudi Arabia? Despite vast wealth, rates of unemployment and underemployment approach 40 percent among young males. Jordan? The "honor killing" of rape victims by their male relatives is still tolerated. Sudan? Slavery and the crucifixion of Christians are practiced with the eager complicity of the government.

Afghanistan will have "a pluralistic and democratic government" when pigs fly.

Pimentel writes: "Food and medicine will always have more lasting effect (sic) than missiles." Does he actually believe that humanitarian aid to imperial Japan in 1945 would have forced the Japanese to sue for peace? Get a grip. Sometimes the best thing you can do is identify your enemy and kill him until he loses interest in killing you. Dropping two Big Ones on Japan had such "lasting effects" that they have mounted zero military expeditions since the end of World War II.

Our present war is only the latest increment in a more or less constant conflict dating back 1,400 years. If victory depends on making large parts of the Muslim world glow in the dark, so be it. As for Pimentel, I trust he will always find a convenient cliché to use in blaming American first.

G. SITTON

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